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Air

EASH-569

(8 Mar 53)

Chief of Base, Salzburg Info: Chief of Mission, Vienna

Chief, RE

Operational/GROUND

ORCHGROUND

Ref: EAVA 4479; SOB/2000

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. When the ORCHGROUND project outline was written in March, 1953, paragraph 4 a, "Current Status of the Project", depicted the state of project operations as of that date; consequently, this part of the outline was bound to become outdated rapidly. At present, it is somewhat obsolete, as reference points out; however, it was written, reviewed and accepted with this point in mind - as are all project proposals - and is not a part of the outline that must be amended as circumstances change.

2. Headquarters comments on reference and on ORCHGROUND are as follows:

a. Paragraph a, reference: It is believed that paragraph 4A(3)(b) of the project outline is sufficiently broad as to permit the field to develop within the X and Z network any courier system or systems of its choice.

b. Paragraph b, reference: We concur; in the over all amendment of the project outline, the words "initial phases of" will be removed from the first sentence of paragraph 4B(2).

c. Paragraph c, reference: See EASH 461.

d. Paragraph d, reference: (See paragraph 1, above) We based our estimate of groups on LAUNCH plans which called for one group

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to retire to the Kaunertal, and various individuals of other groups, who cannot remain in place, to organise in the Kitzbuhler Alps and carry on guerrilla activities. The others were earmarked for resistance activities. GELAUNCH 1 has stated that he envisions no true guerrilla warfare on the part of his organisation. Thus, the Kaunertal group and the group which was to be organised in the Kitzbuhler Alps became merely a mountain variety of clandestine resistance, and all groups, the total number at that time amounting to 21, could properly be classified as resistance groups.

e. Paragraph e, reference: (See paragraph 1, above) We agree to the extent that the words "and/or underground" are incorrect. Airmen will, however, be briefed as to the general (true) guerrilla areas after they have been established and the guerrillas are in operation against the enemy.

f. Paragraph f, reference: (See paragraph 1, above) CROWND speaks of "...a network of 19 agents...being organized..." not of 19 active agents. Our records show eight active agents, seven inactive (spotted, POC and for OC, not approached) agents, and, since March, four agents either dropped or phasing out.

g. Paragraph g, reference: (See paragraph 1, above) Since OKONAL was not recruited, as we assumed he would be, the word acquisition in paragraph 4(3)(e) fourth sub-paragraph is inaccurate.

h. Paragraph h, reference: (See paragraph 1, above) Since March Outhout has phased out of the REPAIR operation leaving REPAIR 3 as the sole agent.

i. Paragraph i, reference: In context, the CROWND statement is accurate. The statement pertained to the majority of "arms and equipment" caches and was not intended to apply to V/T caches.

j. Disagree; the CROWND statement is considered to be sufficient. Actual agent monetary gain, with one or two exceptions, is quite negligible, with most financial transactions consisting of reimbursement for various operational expenses. Further, it is most difficult to distinguish accurately the line between peacetime opportunistic and patriotic motivation.

18 November 1953

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